

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINSHA 00413 151507Z

47

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 /063 W

----- 037368

R 151430Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 884

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY ROME

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KINSHASA 0413

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT CG

SUBJ:CHURCH-STATE: MOBUTU MEETS THE BISHOPS

1. AT END OF EXTENDED SESSION BEGUN JAN 6, ROMAN CATHOLIC EPISCOPAL CONFERENCE OF ZAIRE, COMPOSED OF 50 BISHOPS, SENT 9-BISHOP DELEGATION TO CALL ON MOBUTU JAN 14. LEADER OF DELEGATION, BISHOP LUEBO, WAS INTERVIEWED ON TV AFTER MEETING. BISHOP SAID DELEGATION HAD ASKED FOR CLARIFICATION ON FUTURE OF CHRISTIANITY AND TEACHING OF CHRISTIAN RELIGION IN ZAIRE - IN VIEW OF RECENT DECISIONS AND OF CERTAIN INCIDENTS OCCURRING IN INTERIOR. HAD POINTED OUT THAT 70 PER CENT OF ZAIRIANS WERE CHRISTIANS OF ONE PERSUASION OR ANOTHER. MOBUTU HAD REASSURED THE BISHOPS, SAYING HE HAD NEVER CALLED FOR ATTACKS AGAINST PERSON OF CHRIST OR RELIGIOUS AUTHORITY. MOBUTU ASKED DELEGATION TO REPORT TO CIVIL AUTHORITIES ANY ACTS CONTRARY TO HIS INSTRUCTIONS. DELEGATION HEAD SAID BISHOPS HAD ACKNOWLEDGED RIGHT OF STATE TO TRAIN AND INSTRUCT YOUTH, BUT HAD ASKED FOR SPECIAL CONSIDERATION IN REGARD TO TEACHER PLACEMENT. FOR EXAMPLE, TEACHING NUNS SHOULD NOT BE TRANSFERRED WITHOUT APPROVAL OF MOTHERS SUPERIOR. MOBUTU HAD READILY AGREED.

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PAGE 02 KINSHA 00413 151507Z

2. INFORMED SOURCE REPORTS THAT WHILE SENTIMENT IN EPISCOPAL COUNCIL WAS DIVIDED CONCERNING NEW MEASURES AFFECTING CHURCH SCHOOLS AND RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION, ALL MEMBERS HAD AGREED IT WAS NECESSARY TO MAKE UNITED DEMARCHE TO MOBUTU, IF ONLY TO WISH HIM HAPPY NEW YEAR WHILE AT SAME TIME DEMONSTRATING SOLIDARITY AMONG BISHOPS. ORIGINAL IDEA WAS TO SEEK AUDIENCE FOR ENTIRE 50-MAN BODY, BUT THIS WAS APPARENTLY DROPPED.
HINTON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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